



Detection of a 50° long Trailing Tidal Tail for the Globular Cluster M5

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Abstract

Using photometry and proper motions from *Gaia* Data Release 2, we detect a 50° long stream of about 70 stars extending westward from the halo globular cluster M5. Based on the similarities in distance, proper motions, inferred color–magnitude distribution, and trajectory, we identify this stream as the trailing tidal tail of M5. While the surface density of stars is very low ($\simeq 1.5$ star per square degree, or ≈ 35 mag per square arcsecond), selecting only stars with proper motions consistent with the orbit of the cluster yields a detection significance of $\approx 10\sigma$. While we find a possible continuation of the stream to $\approx 85^\circ$, increasing foreground contamination combined with a greater predicted stream distance makes it difficult to detect with current data even if the stream continues unabated. The nonuniform distribution of stars in the stream appears to be consistent with episodic tidal stripping, with the most recently shed stars now trailing the cluster by tens of degrees. We provide a table of the highest-ranked candidate stream stars for ongoing and future spectroscopic surveys.

Key words: Galaxy: Halo – Galaxy: Structure – Globular Clusters: general – Globular Clusters: individual (M5)

1. Introduction

The inner Galactic halo is now known to be populated with dozens of stellar debris streams (Grillmair & Carlin 2016; Malhan et al. 2018; Shipp et al. 2018; Ibata et al. 2019; Palau & Miralda-Escude 2019). Most of these streams are relatively narrow, with physical widths on the order of 100 pc, and they are consequently assumed to have been produced by globular clusters. Yet we know of only three extant globular clusters with long ($>10^\circ$) tidal tails, namely Pal 5 (Odenkirchen et al. 2003), NGC 5466 (Belokurov et al. 2006; Grillmair & Johnson 2006), and M68 (Palau & Miralda-Escude 2019). This is somewhat surprising, given that most globular clusters studied to date show evidence for departures from King profiles (King 1966) in their outskirts that are consistent with the development of tidal tails (Grillmair et al. 1995; Leon et al. 2000).

With episodic stripping and consequent regular variations in stream density, tidal tails extending from extant globular clusters may be somewhat problematic for detecting signatures of dark matter subhalos (Küpper et al. 2012). On the other hand, by providing well-characterized progenitors, such tidal tails will be useful for understanding the detailed physics of tidal stripping, the accretion sequence of the halo, and the shape of the Galactic potential (Bovy et al. 2016).

With the second data release of the *Gaia* catalog we now have considerably more information for sorting stars into substructures. Malhan & Ibata (2018), Malhan et al. (2018), and Ibata et al. (2019) have applied brute force orbital integration techniques to discover many halo streams that would have been impossible to detect with the purely photometric techniques of a few years ago. Here we use an alternative, more directed method to detect a long trailing tail behind the globular cluster M5. Section 2 describes our method. We discuss possible issues with the association of the stream with M5 in Section 3 and make concluding remarks in Section 4.

2. Analysis

Our search technique makes use of the *Gaia* second data release (Gaia Collaboration et al. 2016, 2018a). While the

relatively bright limiting magnitude of the catalog ($G \approx 20$) rather limits the numbers of main-sequence stars that can be sampled (compared with deeper photometric catalogs like the Sloan Digital Sky Survey or Pan-STARRS) the addition of high-quality proper motion measurements enables selection criteria that can more than compensate in certain circumstances.

Gaia Collaboration et al. (2018b) used the *Gaia* catalog to measure proper motions for most of the known Galactic globular clusters. Using these proper motions along with previously published radial velocities, we used a simple model of the Galaxy (Allen & Santillan 1991, updated using the parameters of Irigang et al. 2013) to compute orbits for clusters. From these orbits we derived expectation profiles for proper motions as a function of position on the sky. The predicted run of position, distance, radial velocity, and proper motions for M5’s orbit are shown in Figure 1.

We then applied a modified form of the matched filter described by Rockosi et al. (2002) and Grillmair (2009) to the *Gaia* data. Briefly, we used the *Gaia*-observed G , $G_{BP} - G_{RP}$ distribution of stars in M5 to produce a color–magnitude locus extending from the apparent tip of the red giant branch to the main sequence at $G \approx 21$. This locus was then shifted up and down in G to account for possible changes in distance of stream stars. At each magnitude shift/assumed distance, individual stars in the field were accorded weights based on their minimum G , $G_{BP} - G_{RP}$ distances from the CM locus. These weights were computed using the *Gaia*-provided photometric uncertainties and assuming a Gaussian error distribution. We used only stars with photometric uncertainties of less than 0.5 mag and valid proper motion measurements. In this newly modified form of the filter, these weights were then scaled again using each stars’s departure from the expected proper motion profiles shown in Figure 1. The *Gaia*-provided proper motion errors were assumed to be Gaussian and the corresponding weights computed as:

$$w \propto \exp \left\{ -0.5 \left[\left(\frac{\mu_\alpha - \mu_{\alpha,\text{pred}}}{\sigma_{\mu_\alpha}} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{\mu_\delta - \mu_{\delta,\text{pred}}}{\sigma_{\mu_\delta}} \right)^2 \right] \right\}, \quad (1)$$

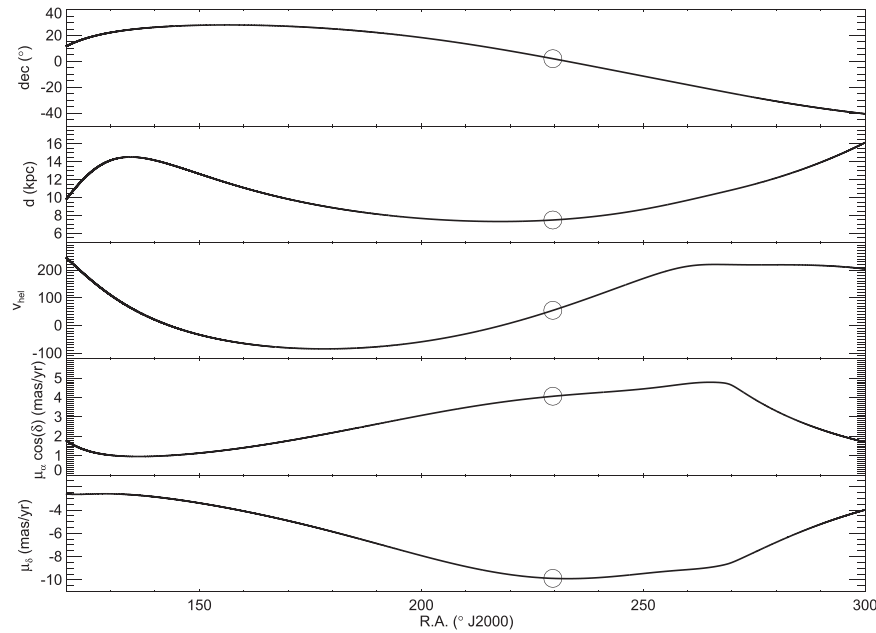


Figure 1. Run of decl., distance, radial velocity, and proper motions with R.A. for the orbit of M5, as predicted using the Galactic model of Allen & Santillan (1991), updated with model parameters from Irrgang et al. (2013), an M5 distance of 7.5 kpc (Harris 1996), and M5 proper motions from the Gaia Collaboration et al. (2018b). The open circles show the values for M5 itself.

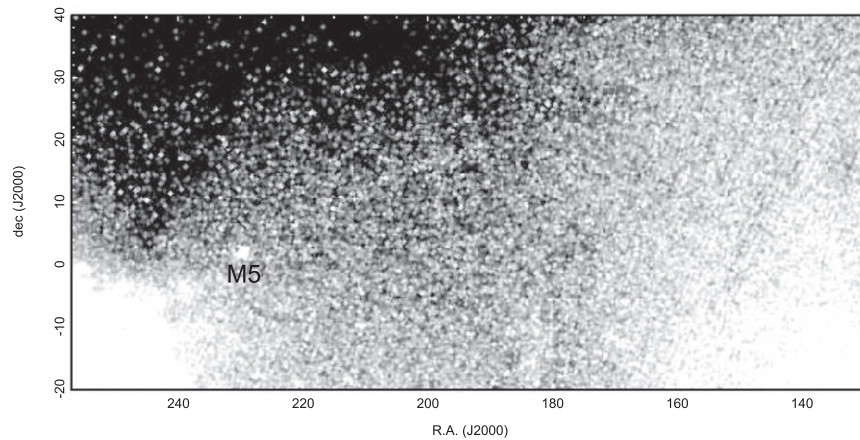


Figure 2. Log stretch of a matched filter map of the region west of M5. Individual stars are weighted by their positions in the M5 G , $G_{BP} - G_{RP}$ color–magnitude diagram at a distance of 7.3 kpc (for the eastern two-thirds of the region shown) and 12 kpc (for the westernmost third), and by their departure from the expected $\mu_\alpha \cos \delta$, μ_δ profile of M5’s orbit. The scale is 0.2 per pixel and the map has been smoothed with a Gaussian kernel of 0.4. The striations (most prominent on the right-hand side of the image) are a consequence of *Gaia*’s scan pattern.

where μ_{pred} are the components of proper motion predicted at each star’s R.A. in Figure 1. We then summed these weights by sky position to produce the weighted surface density map shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2 shows a tenuous but significant stream of stars extending $\approx 50^\circ$ to the northwest of M5. The stream is not aligned with any features in *Gaia*’s scan pattern, nor does it coincide with any extended regions of particularly low reddening (Schlegel et al. 1998). The stream is visible only over a limited range of assumed distance moduli, strengthening and subsiding with increasing distance in a manner that is characteristic of purely photometric uncertainties. While there is no obvious M5-like color–magnitude sequence visible for purely proper motion-selected stars within the area of the stream, using color–magnitude filters that are either somewhat more metal-rich or more metal-poor than M5 yield a reduced

maximum signal-to-noise ratio (S/N). Based on the strength of the matched-filtered signal, the stream appears to be located about 0.1 mag closer over much of its length than the 7.5 kpc distance of M5 itself (Harris 1996). This qualitatively agrees with Figure 1, which predicts a heliocentric distance that drops slightly to 7.3 kpc at R.A. $\approx 217^\circ$ and then increases to nearly 15 kpc at R.A. $\approx 134^\circ$.

Over the region $190^\circ < \text{R.A.} < 225^\circ$ the path of the stream can be modeled to within 0.3° using:

$$\delta = 37.4026 + 0.2096\alpha - 0.001578\alpha^2. \quad (2)$$

Though M5 itself was not used in the fit, Equation (1) passes within $4'$ of the cluster.

In Figure 3 we have conducted an identical analysis, but using a coordinate system aligned with the stream in Figure 2.

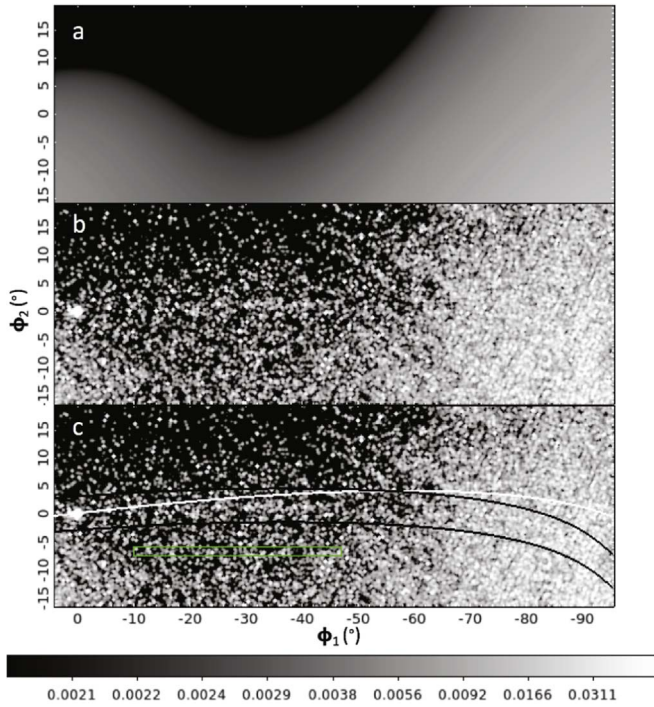


Figure 3. As in Figure 2, but now using a coordinate system aligned with the stream (see text). ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 are now parallel and perpendicular to the stream, at least for the portion of the stream less than 40° from M5. Panel (a) shows a third-order polynomial fit to the foreground distribution (after masking M5 itself) that is subtracted from the distribution to produce the maps shown in panels (b) and (c). Individual stars are weighted so that a star lying precisely on the M5 color-magnitude locus as well as on the predicted $\mu_\alpha \cos \delta$ and μ_δ profiles in Figure 1 has a weight of unity. In panel (c), the white curve shows the predicted orbit of M5, computed as described in the text. The black lines are $\pm 3^\circ$ offsets from an orbit computed assuming a distance for M5 of 7 kpc. The green box shows a mask used to measure the lateral profile shown in Figure 4.

This coordinate system has a pole at (R.A., decl.) = (326:626, +63:7782), and a zero-point that places M5 at $\phi_1 = 0^\circ$. We have also attempted to remove the foreground contribution by fitting a third-order polynomial to the distribution after masking out M5 itself. Also shown is the predicted orbit of M5 from Figure 1. While we do not generally expect a tidal tail to precisely follow the orbit of its progenitor (Eyre & Binney 2011), we note that the predicted orbit diverges somewhat from the path of the stream, lying about 3° north of the stream at $\phi_1 \approx -50^\circ$. We discuss this further below.

The strongest portion of the stream extends to $\phi_1 \approx -41^\circ$, whereupon the signal drops significantly to $\phi_1 \approx -50^\circ$. There may be an additional stream segment extending from $\phi_1 \approx -62^\circ$ to $\phi_1 \approx -85^\circ$. The significance of this segment is clearly marginal, though its downward arc to the southwest is suggestively similar to that of the predicted orbit. If we believe that this segment is real, then there appears to be a possible gap in the stream extending from $\phi_1 = -50^\circ$ and $\phi_1 = -62^\circ$. Such a gap might be a consequence of epicyclic motions of stars due to M5's fairly eccentric orbit, or it may have been caused by an encounter with a massive perturber, including perhaps a dark matter subhalo (Carlberg 2009; Yoon et al. 2011; Carlberg & Grillmair 2013).

The lateral profile of the stream is shown in Figure 4. This profile was measured using both 0.6° wide and 2.6° wide rectangular masks extending from $\phi_1 = -47^\circ$ to $\phi_1 = -10^\circ$. These masks were passed laterally across the foreground-

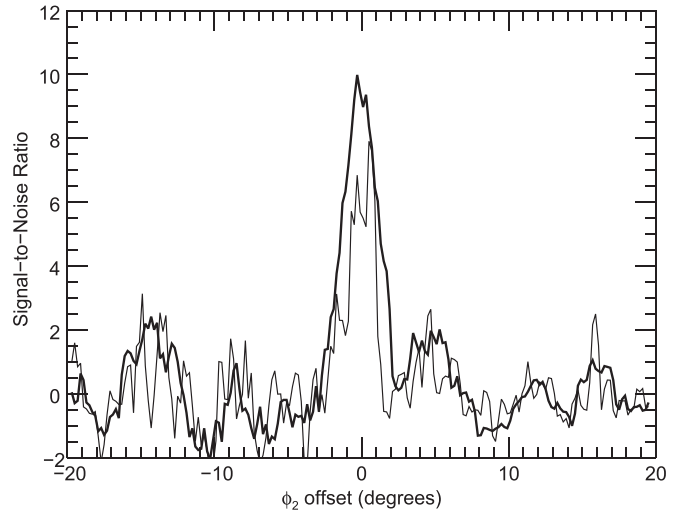


Figure 4. Lateral profile of the stream. The thin black line shows the result of moving a 37° long by 0.6° wide mask across the stream in panel (b) of Figure 3, while the heavy black line shows the profile using a 2.6° wide mask.

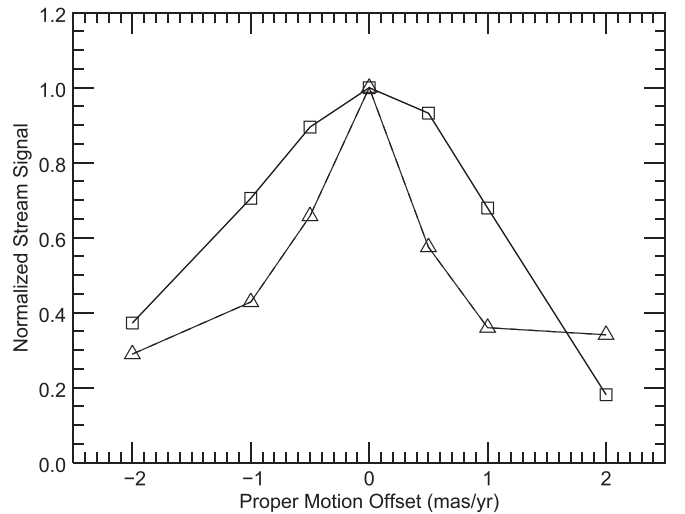


Figure 5. Relative signal strength of the stream when constant offsets are applied to the proper motion profiles in Figure 1. Squares show the results for offsets in $\mu_\alpha \cos \delta$ while triangles show the results when the μ_δ profile is modified. The widths of the peaks are consistent with the relative uncertainties in the two directions.

subtracted stream in Figure 3 and the total signal recorded as a function of ϕ_2 . The profile was then divided by the standard deviation in the signal profile for all regions with $|\Delta\phi_2| > 4^\circ$ to yield a measure of S/N (the T -index of Grillmair 2009). The strongest part of the stream is evidently detected at $\sim 10\sigma$. Using the 0.6° wide mask, we find the full width at half maximum (FWHM) to be 1.7° .

How sensitive is our detection to the predicted proper motion profiles in Figure 1? To test this, we offset the $\mu_\alpha \cos \delta$ and μ_δ profiles by specified amounts and measured the strength of the stream as we did in Figure 4. Figure 5 shows the signal strength as a function of proper motion offset. The signal clearly drops quite quickly as we offset from the nominal profiles expected for the orbit of M5. The widths of the peaks are consistent with the proper motion uncertainties, which can exceed 1 mas yr^{-1} at our limiting magnitude. Proper motion offsets in decl. result in a more precipitous decline in the signal strength than proper

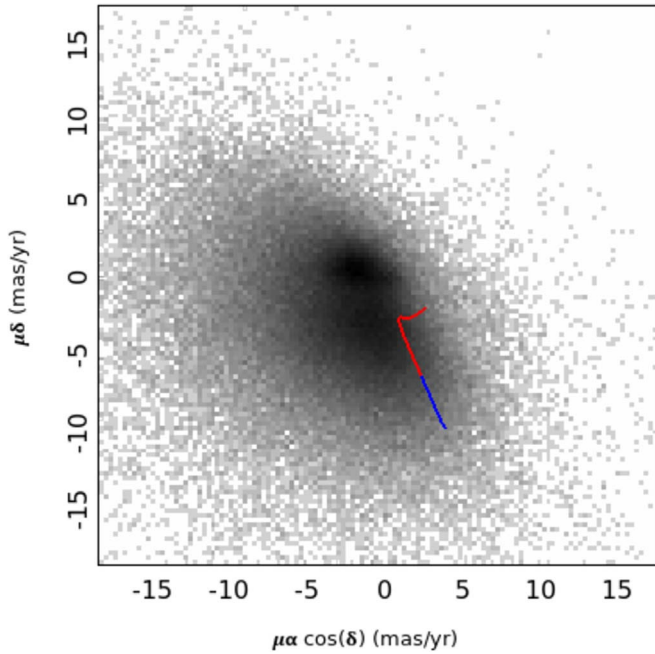


Figure 6. Predicted proper motions for M5’s orbit compared with the proper motion distribution of stars in the vicinity of the north Galactic pole. The blue curve shows the strongest, 50° portion of the stream in Figure 2, while the red curve shows the portion of the orbit extending further to the west. The hook at the top of the predicted proper motion profile corresponds to the apogalacticon of the orbit.

motion offsets in $\mu_\alpha \cos \delta$. This appears to be in accord with *Gaia*’s relative proper motion uncertainties in the two directions in this part of the sky. For stars with $18 < G < 20$ and satisfying our color–magnitude constraints, the average $\mu_\alpha \cos \delta$ uncertainty is 0.74 mas yr^{-1} , whereas for μ_δ the average is 0.45 mas yr^{-1} .

We note in passing that the uncertainties in our M5 proper motion profiles are dominated by the uncertainty in the distance to M5 (see below). We are of course also subject to inaccuracies in our adopted Galactic model. The uncertainties in the measured proper motions and radial velocity for M5 (Gaia Collaboration et al. 2018b) are so small as to have essentially no visible effect on the profiles in Figure 1.

Based on (i) the close alignment of the stream with M5, (ii) the similarity in distance and trajectory of the stream compared with that of the model orbit, (iii) that the stream is most strongly detected using the proper motions predicted for M5’s orbit, and (iv) the fact that the highest S/N is obtained using a filter based on the color–magnitude distribution of stars in M5, we conclude that the stream is most likely to be the trailing tidal tail of M5.

Our computed orbit for M5 predicts heliocentric distances that remain relatively constant for much of the visible stream, rising gradually to the west and peaking at about 14.5 kpc at R.A. $\approx 135^\circ$. Thus, even if the stream extended around the Galaxy with uniform surface density, we would expect the observed stream to fade toward the west as fewer and fewer stars lie within *Gaia*’s magnitude limit. Moreover, the surface density of foreground stars with proper motions similar to those of M5’s orbit increases substantially as we approach the Galactic plane to the west. This is shown in Figure 6, where we compare the predicted proper motions for M5’s orbit with the distribution of proper motions in the region of the north Galactic pole. Using a globular cluster luminosity function and

reducing the limiting magnitude by 1.5 mag predicts that we should see only one-third as many stars. In addition, sampling Figure 6 or making a cut along ϕ_1 just below the stream shows that foreground contamination increases by more than a factor of 10. Combining the reduction in stream stars with the increase in background therefore predicts an S/N of ≈ 1 at R.A. $= 135^\circ$. This is roughly consistent with the appearance of the westernmost segment. Figures 2 and 3 therefore do not rule out a stream that continues westward with a constant surface density. Future deep, multiepoch surveys (e.g., WFIRST, Sanderson et al. 2017) may be able to trace M5’s tidal tail considerably further around the Galaxy.

There is no clear signature of M5’s leading tail. While there appears to be a pair of somewhat amorphous enhancements $\approx 10^\circ$ – 15° to the southeast of M5, these also coincide with similarly shaped patches of significant reddening ($(E - V) \approx 0.4$, Schlegel et al. 1998). For the present study, we attribute these enhancements to inaccurate reddening corrections. M5’s orbit predicts that the leading tail should reappear south of the Galactic plane at ≈ 11 kpc, with distance increasing eastwards to over 20 kpc at R.A. $> 320^\circ$. A cursory search for the leading tail south of the Galactic plane did not yield any obvious candidate. Moreover, *Gaia*’s scan pattern in this region of the sky is almost parallel to M5’s predicted orbit, making an unambiguous identification somewhat problematic. Based on the arguments above, we conclude that the S/N is too low for detectability with existing *Gaia* measurements.

2.1. Radial Velocity Measurements

Matching by position the 500 highest-weighted stars in the stream against the Sloan Digital Sky Survey Data Release 15 (Aguado et al. 2019), we found a total of three matches. Of these, only one star is classified as metal-poor. This star (SDSS J124931.41+195438.0) has (R.A., decl.) = (192°38091, 19°910564), $g, r, i = 19.46, 19.20, 19.1$, $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] -1.5$, and a heliocentric radial velocity of $-93 \pm 14 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. Figure 1 shows that the predicted velocity at this point along M5’s orbit is -73.5 km s^{-1} , in agreement at the 1.4σ level. We therefore consider this a high probability member of M5’s trailing tail.

As an aid for ongoing and future spectroscopic surveys, we provide coordinates, *Gaia* magnitudes and colors, and proper motions for the 50 highest-weighted candidate stream stars in Table 1. These candidates span the strongest part of the stream ($188^\circ < \text{R.A.} < 227^\circ$) and are ranked by relative weight, with the most probable candidate listed first.

3. Discussion

M5’s trailing tail is somewhat broader than other globular cluster streams. At a distance of 7.5 kpc, the measured FWHM of 1.7 would correspond to ≈ 200 pc. The stream also appears to be less collimated and more “wiggly” than more populous streams like GD-1 or Pal 5, though this may be partly a consequence of small number statistics.

Another interesting feature of M5’s tidal tail is that it does not connect as directly or as strongly with the cluster as do, for example, the tidal tails of Pal 5 (Odenkirchen et al. 2003) or NGC 5466 (Belokurov et al. 2006; Grillmair & Johnson 2006). The strongest part of the stream is situated between 20° and 30° away from the cluster, and there appears to be a gap or diminution between 5° and 10° from the cluster itself. Does this argue against an association between the stream and M5? As a

Table 1
Candidate Stream Stars

Rank	R.A. (J2015)	Decl. (J2015)	G	$G_{BP} - G_{RP}$	$\mu_{\alpha} \cos \delta$ (mas yr $^{-1}$)	μ_{δ} (mas yr $^{-1}$)	Relative Weight
1	211.8487	10.5403	18.030	0.648	3.741 ± 0.346	-9.117 ± 0.096	1.000
2	214.1377	10.8701	18.624	0.661	3.439 ± 0.518	-9.072 ± 0.079	0.864
3	191.8278	19.3288	18.750	0.658	2.943 ± 0.495	-7.059 ± 0.117	0.836
4	221.2704	6.3224	18.349	0.633	3.604 ± 0.453	-9.941 ± 0.325	0.823
5	224.7915	5.2440	17.813	0.649	3.970 ± 0.288	-9.758 ± 0.357	0.690
6	219.6210	9.3874	18.481	0.626	3.470 ± 0.454	-9.502 ± 0.229	0.623
7	206.9149	13.8379	18.128	0.641	3.302 ± 0.359	-8.887 ± 0.304	0.612
8	189.1147	20.2214	18.553	0.631	2.236 ± 0.429	-6.821 ± 0.132	0.580
9	215.2481	9.1563	18.036	0.640	3.838 ± 0.366	-9.582 ± 0.484	0.565
10	200.5500	16.3797	18.725	0.660	2.524 ± 0.525	-7.885 ± 1.231	0.458
11	203.8473	13.6791	18.998	0.686	2.631 ± 0.846	-8.046 ± 0.453	0.458
12	225.6028	6.4901	18.418	0.612	4.303 ± 0.394	-9.856 ± 0.882	0.432
13	198.0241	17.3266	18.062	0.601	2.738 ± 0.332	-7.762 ± 0.355	0.420
14	202.0928	15.2032	17.942	0.650	3.382 ± 0.382	-8.304 ± 0.192	0.402
15	215.6956	10.3686	18.525	0.658	4.195 ± 0.444	-8.972 ± 0.182	0.373
16	214.1131	9.6728	18.593	0.676	3.546 ± 0.486	-9.272 ± 0.456	0.372
17	191.8149	16.7659	19.318	0.743	2.724 ± 1.841	-7.245 ± 0.394	0.371
18	194.1823	17.1066	18.529	0.642	3.553 ± 0.521	-7.361 ± 0.967	0.363
19	221.8236	7.5419	18.722	0.684	4.295 ± 0.510	-9.537 ± 0.122	0.362
20	199.0225	14.7108	19.222	0.704	3.293 ± 0.799	-8.407 ± 0.130	0.351
21	188.0709	17.4787	19.177	0.675	2.394 ± 0.779	-6.701 ± 0.122	0.337
22	216.2352	8.7810	19.415	0.734	3.002 ± 0.882	-9.145 ± 0.276	0.327
23	195.6849	15.8065	19.131	0.692	2.230 ± 0.664	-7.666 ± 0.667	0.324
24	210.9052	11.3475	19.595	0.781	3.522 ± 0.863	-9.240 ± 0.821	0.318
25	215.7512	6.6868	19.016	0.686	3.167 ± 0.666	-9.635 ± 0.036	0.293
26	194.0119	18.7484	18.648	0.695	3.016 ± 0.468	-7.340 ± 0.368	0.286
27	216.3491	10.2678	19.143	0.708	4.509 ± 0.685	-8.981 ± 0.621	0.283
28	201.8017	15.1407	19.615	0.765	3.949 ± 1.281	-8.356 ± 0.287	0.277
29	200.4833	16.7628	18.267	0.639	2.743 ± 0.382	-7.539 ± 0.577	0.276
30	215.8864	6.4038	18.756	0.565	3.355 ± 0.771	-9.170 ± 0.257	0.273
31	209.8048	10.4813	19.318	0.746	3.749 ± 0.732	-8.350 ± 0.082	0.272
32	210.2689	12.6871	19.811	0.811	3.111 ± 1.208	-9.248 ± 0.132	0.268
33	220.3115	7.1609	18.590	0.634	3.162 ± 0.438	-9.549 ± 0.071	0.266
34	217.4034	6.8449	18.993	0.695	2.829 ± 0.645	-9.338 ± 0.641	0.265
35	224.8610	4.9289	19.491	0.747	4.670 ± 0.784	-9.577 ± 0.869	0.262
36	197.7927	16.3254	18.502	0.631	3.473 ± 0.393	-7.965 ± 0.344	0.262
37	209.8688	11.0934	19.416	0.720	4.132 ± 0.850	-8.683 ± 0.053	0.261
38	209.1230	13.0422	19.078	0.703	4.395 ± 0.741	-8.458 ± 0.070	0.260
39	226.7971	6.8240	18.880	0.692	3.524 ± 0.628	-10.534 ± 0.047	0.259
40	205.6701	14.1893	19.461	0.735	3.359 ± 1.023	-8.997 ± 1.079	0.259
41	202.4636	15.4496	19.501	0.754	2.331 ± 0.841	-7.971 ± 0.446	0.257
42	216.7714	9.6120	18.744	0.680	4.442 ± 0.687	-8.955 ± 0.054	0.257
43	189.7340	20.4308	18.829	0.629	2.502 ± 0.429	-6.752 ± 0.191	0.252
44	218.7209	8.8706	19.974	0.850	4.217 ± 1.579	-10.959 ± 0.259	0.251
45	221.0086	6.6657	19.428	0.744	4.235 ± 0.867	-10.441 ± 1.050	0.245
46	212.5012	11.5745	19.523	0.776	3.038 ± 0.962	-8.436 ± 0.111	0.243
47	196.2040	17.9566	19.937	0.825	2.030 ± 1.202	-6.985 ± 0.051	0.242
48	196.3534	18.0855	19.751	0.797	2.016 ± 0.994	-7.253 ± 0.801	0.241
49	213.7135	10.4678	19.555	0.746	3.806 ± 1.591	-8.274 ± 0.128	0.241
50	199.6213	16.5163	19.149	0.676	2.654 ± 0.731	-7.496 ± 0.242	0.239

simple experiment we set the cluster to be 62 pc (the estimated tidal radius of a M5 Harris 1996) and 200 pc (the width of the stream) farther away than its nominal distance and integrate new orbits around the Galaxy. These integrations show that the stars in the trailing tail should take between 3% and 8% longer to orbit the Galaxy than the cluster itself. M5 is on a moderately eccentric orbit ($\epsilon \approx 0.8$; Gaia Collaboration et al. 2018b) and tidally stripped stars will primarily be lost near perigalacticon. If the strongest part of the stream in Figure 2 represents a pulse of stars lost during the last perigalactic passage some 3×10^8 yr ago, then we would now expect the center of this pulse to be trailing the cluster by between 14° and 20° . The approximate

agreement between the observed distribution and the results of this experiment once again point to an association between the stream and M5, and suggest that the cluster is undergoing strongly episodic tidal stripping.

Could M5's trailing tail be detected using traditional, photometry-only matched filter techniques applied to deeper photometric surveys? We tested this by applying the matched filter technique described by Grillmair (2009) to the Pan-STARRS PS-1 catalog, using $g - r$ and $g - i$ color-magnitude diagrams for M5 to a limiting magnitude of $g = 21.7$. This fainter magnitude limit would nominally gain us between two and three times as many stream stars. However, owing presumably to the

lack of proper motions and the concomitant severe contamination by foreground stars, no trace of a stream could be detected. This underscores the tremendous value of *Gaia* proper motions for detecting very tenuous streams.

A possible issue with the identification of the stream with M5 is that the stream stars fall on the “wrong” side of the M5’s putative orbit. Our adopted Galactic model predicts that we are very nearly in the plane of M5’s orbit, though very slightly ahead of this plane in the direction of Galactic rotation. If this is indeed the trailing tail of M5, then the stars would have been cast into slightly higher Galactic orbits than that of M5. From our vantage point, this would nominally put a trailing tail on or just slightly to the north of M5’s orbit. Yet the observed stream lies south of the putative orbit over its entire length. This situation holds for a variety of orbits computed by offsetting the velocities, proper motions, and parallax to their 1σ limits (including a systematic error of $0.035 \text{ mas yr}^{-1}$ per *Gaia* Collaboration et al. 2018b). The distance to M5 remains the most uncertain of the input parameters, and the stream offset issue can be alleviated if we set this to be 7 kpc. As shown in Figure 3, the predicted orbit then lines up with the stream very well. However, such a distance would depart by more than 2σ from the 7.6 kpc main-sequence fitting estimate of Sandquist et al. (1996).

Alternatively, it is quite possible that our simple, spherical halo model is inaccurate in this region of the Galaxy, and that either nonsphericity and/or dynamical changes in the dark matter distribution (Carlberg 2019; Erkal et al. 2019) are responsible for the apparent divergence between orbit and stream. Realistic N -body modeling of the stream may also shed light on whether the position of the stream and M5’s putative orbit can be plausibly reconciled. Finally, despite our arguments above, it is possible that the stream is not associated with M5. Spectroscopy of many individual stars will be required to determine whether they are both dynamically and chemically related to M5.

4. Conclusions

Using *Gaia* photometry and proper motion measurements we have detected a stream of metal-poor stars that we believe to be the trailing tidal tail of the globular cluster M5. The detection was made possible by the fact that the proper motions expected based on M5’s orbit are significantly different from those of most foreground stars in the vicinity of the north Galactic pole. The most visible part of the tail has an estimated surface density to $G = 20.0$ of 1.5 stars per square degree, and a corresponding surface brightness of $>35 \text{ mag per square arcsecond}$. Owing to both increasing distance and foreground contamination, the stream could plausibly extend much further around the Galaxy but be largely undetectable in the *Gaia* data.

The predicted destruction rate of M5 is not particularly high among globular clusters generally (Gnedin & Ostriker 1997), ranking somewhere in the middle or near the bottom depending on the model used. The detection of M5’s trailing tail suggests that, given *Gaia* proper motions, extended tidal tails for many other globular clusters may now be detectable. Previous work suggests that most if not all globular clusters should have tidal tails and our detection demonstrates that *Gaia* proper motion measurements may, in favorable circumstance, provide a way of mapping the extended portions of these tails. Given the relatively accurate measurements of the six-dimensional phase space coordinates now available for many of the nearby globular clusters, finding such extended tidal tails will at a

minimum aid in our efforts to map the detailed contours and possible secular evolution of the Galactic potential.

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